

House Bill 2427

Adam Reed

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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Adam Reed, I am 27 years old, and I have been a resident of Oregon since I was born. When I was 17, I got into some trouble with some poorly chosen friends and was charged with a felony. Due to measure 11, the fact that I was a minor at the time does nothing to sway these charges from hanging over my head more than 10 years later. I am and have always been a hard worker, a well educated individual, and I have always managed my finances very well. But despite my high credit score, lack of debt, and good paying job I still come across regular hang-ups when it comes to renting a home.

Since taking the Multnomah County Rent Well classes I have learned several things that have been able to help me understand and overcome a number of these hurdles. One troubling thing I learned though, is that my felony is enough for a renter to be able to write me off without so much as a second thought. This means that the screening fee that I have to pay in order for them to find out what I have already been obligated to disclose can be multiplied exponentially with each application. Prior to taking the Rent Well courses and being connected with Caitlyn Kennedy and Anthony Foster, I had no idea what to do to try and overcome these things. At times I have had to think long and hard about the possibility of homelessness and the prospect of living out of my car; just because it became so overwhelming to continue putting in and paying for applications that depend on sympathy or random trust to be overlooked enough to be given a serious consideration. Luckily, I have a close friend who has been my roommate and cosigner on the last couple leases that I have managed to acquire. Without her, who knows how many more times I would have had to go through this screening/application process.

There is a foundation that must be laid in any business to govern morality, legality, and equality. Monopolies, price gouging, racism, and sexual harassment are all examples of what these governing laws and foundations have been set in place to stop or at the least try and prevent. Its due to this logic that we now have protected classes such as race, age, and gender. But it cannot stop at that. New laws and new practices must come to fruition. House Bill 2427 is not just addressing new issues of standard business practice; it is addressing a standard human need for shelter and a home. To individuals like me and many others, the standardizing of this system is a matter of a growing future or homelessness. The world is ever evolving and as we learn we come to understand the mistakes we have made along with the changes we need to make to address them. House Bill 2427 is that change.